



**Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development (OPPTD)
Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee Minutes
October 6, 1999
Sacramento Convention Center**

Attendance:

Advisory committee members

Public members:

Barbara Brenner, Breast Cancer Action
Greg Beach, San Bernardino Fire Dept./CalCUPA Forum
Kelly Moran, Sierra Club
Maggie Robbins, California Federation of Labor
Jim Schrack, ARCO
Ann Heil, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Stewart Crook, Agilent Technologies, Inc.
Brian Cox, Humboldt County Environmental Health
Larry Moore, Larry's AutoWorks
Martha Valdes, Environmental Health Coalition

Cal/EPA boards, departments and offices (*ex officio* representatives):

Bill Orr, Integrated Waste Management Board
Don Ames, Air Resources Board
Jim Bennett, state Water Resources Control Board
David Siegel, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Bob Hoffman, Department of Toxic Substances Control
B.B. Blevins, Cal/EPA Office of the Secretary

DTSC staff

Kathy Barwick, Senior Hazardous Substance Scientist
Kim Wilhelm, Chief, Pollution Prevention Branch
David Hartley, Chief, Pollution Prevention Clearinghouse
Alan Ingham, Chief, Source Reduction Unit
Jim Allen, Chief, Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development

Observers

Andrea Lewis, Cal/EPA
Eileen Sheehan, U.S. EPA Region IX Pollution Prevention Team

I. The meeting was called to order by Laurie McCann, the advisory committee facilitator. All present introduced themselves and expressed their expectations about the committee. Some of the expectations:

- high expectations of the group
- want to see DTSC benefit from diverse input
- don't forget "environmental justice" issues

- cross-media issues important
- importance of pollution prevention in regulatory process--need to pass information to local agencies
- look at specific pollutants
- importance of making the best use of our time (meeting time is limited)
- open, honest process
- look at pollutants rather than industry types
- this group will get things done--high confidence in the group
- energize DTSC's p2 program
- opportunity to identify ideas for Cal/EPA secretary and legislature
- multimedia, multijurisdictional issues
- accomplish measurable things
- occupational health consequences of p2
- Precautionary Principle

II. Edwin F. Lowry, DTSC Director, gave opening remarks. The ensuing discussion focused on the need to make p2 activities within Cal/EPA multimedia.

III. Review agenda/ground rules

The committee reviewed and approved the agenda and the ground rules.

The committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of the facilitator (Laurie), DTSC staff (Kathy), the elected committee chairperson, and DTSC staff.

Action: Kathy to distribute phone list to committee for contacts

IV. Review "Project Road Map"

The graphic "Project Road Map" was discussed in order to focus on and come to agreement on the goals of the advisory committee for the first year. It was agreed that the goals of the committee are to provide recommendations on the 2-year workplan; to evaluate DTSC's p2 program, and to make recommendations about priorities, program activities, and legislation.

Challenges:

- distinguishing self from constituents
- trouble with jargon/acronyms
- diversity of interests
- narrow vs. broad--how to balance?
- timing (legislative schedule)
- relevance to other Cal/EPA boards/depts/offices
- maintaining continuity and interest between meetings
- constraints from committee members' agencies re: participant resources
- national implications. What we do in California may have a ripple effect nationally.
- legislative agenda overtake committee work?

Success factors:

- do-able, clear objectives between meetings
- legislative interest
- balance between environmental benefits and benefits to industry

Other comments:

- hazardous waste source reduction planning requirements now include the "Summary Progress Report"; the data collected here may reveal need for legislation to force more p2 implementation
- data are insufficient; TRI doesn't give the full picture
- include worker issues; include occupational health branch of DHS; CalOSHA

Action: Kathy to provide glossary, organizational chart for Cal/EPA

V. Kim Wilhelm presented an overview of DTSC's current pollution prevention activities. Discussion points:

- SB 1916 activities resources/activities meant to be integrated into overall pollution prevention program--not separate
- how is U.S. EPA expending its p2 resources?
- p2 in the south San Francisco Bay potw programs a success story

VI. Kathy Barwick gave a presentation about some of the different criteria the committee may want to use to make decisions on how to focus the p2 program. Included in the presentation were quantitative and qualitative considerations such as technical/economic feasibility, hazardous waste/TRI data, pollutants/chemicals of concern, OPPTD staff expertise, environmental justice, and other possible criteria.

VII. Dan Garza gave an overview of the various data bases available to DTSC, including the manifest data, the Biennial Report System, and the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). Of particular note are the limitations of the data. For example, manifest data do not include Standard Industrial Classification (SIC Codes) information, making it difficult to establish waste trends relative to specific industry types. Another example is the issues of combinations of chemicals; manifest data contain no information about combinations of chemicals. Another limitation resides within the TRI data base: it generally only identifies releases from companies using large amounts of hazardous materials. Cumulative releases from numerous small point sources are not identifiable through this data set.

Discussion points:

- TRI outdated (air data); don't have the speciation you need
- what's missing?
 - use data
 - milk run information
- some states have performed useful analyses of TRI data
- DTSC shouldn't feel confined by the 3 data sets presented
- concern: how confident are we that the data reveal true problems?

- manifest data are relatively accurate
- need to retain this issue when formulating legislative recommendations (i.e., what data do we need?)

VII. The Big Picture--Discussion

Trends

Positive

- state doing well economically
- more funding available
- SB 709 (water bill)--grants authority for agencies to require p2 planning for chronic water quality violators
- the water program's Total Maximum Daily Load requirements stimulating p2
- communities demanding change

Negative

- general fund--there's a reluctance to spend general fund \$ on the environment by the legislature
- "greenwashing"

Other

- point vs nonpoint sources
 - stormwater
 - agricultural runoff
 - personal behavior
- nonpoint sources require p2 solutions, more awareness
- difficulty re: translating data to risk
- multilateral trade agreements
- cross-border issues

Technology issues

- products, chemicals being developed quickly--environmental effects not known
- lower detection limits
- better understanding of health effects

Political/Government issues

- OSHA doesn't require proof of safety before use
- increased population
- cultural differences

Community needs:

good, safe jobs; clean water; health; safety; level playing field; consistency; holistic approach; safe food; healthy ecosystems; self-reliance; clean air; sustainability; flexibility; socially responsible business/industry; certainty; right-to-know; information on choices; equitable environmental burdens

How to relate the big picture to the task at hand? Ideas:

- need to focus on nonpoint sources
- how can p2 efforts be focused on environmental justice issues
- target communities where impacts are heavier
- outreach re: other cultures
- cultivate responsible companies
- many factors exist beyond DTSC program; picking targets not as critical; but p2 must exist over time (must start somewhere)
- start with the chemical, work back to facilities
- identify possible alternatives
- look at what's working and do more of that
- putting more people to work on the problem (incentives: Green Business Program)
- how do we change the culture?
- need more information on what is successful
- get businesses here to talk about how they make improvements
- we're interested in environmental problems--not just reducing hazardous waste
- OPPTD should make recommendations based on its knowledge
- OPPTD should draft criteria, and a list of known environmental problems
- OPPTD conduct preliminary data analysis, get info from other states
- apply 3 data sets (manifest, TRI, BRS) to comprehensive list
- be clear re: limitations of the data
- staff needs input from group: 3 highest priorities re: chem/compounds
- what motivates company behavior?
- BDOs--bring top 5-6 issues/problems
- what communities are most affected? Is there a geographic overlay we could bring to the analysis?

VIII. Committee Business

The committee elected Kelly Moran as chair, and Stewart Crook as co-chair.

IX. Parking lot (save for future discussion)

What data do we need in order to better target the program, measure success, etc?

X. Next meetings

Future meeting dates for the advisory committee were set. They are:

December 1, 1999

February 2, 2000

April 5, 2000

Specific locations TBA.

The date of the public meeting to share the draft 2-year workplan has not yet been scheduled.

X. DTSC staff assignments

The advisory committee expressed its desire for DTSC pollution prevention staff to evaluate hazardous waste and other appropriate data and present analyses and recommendations to the committee at the next meeting. This work is currently underway.